

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A composite multilayer material, in particular for plain bearings or bushings, having a backing layer, a bearing metal layer ~~(3)~~ of a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy, a nickel intermediate layer ~~(2)~~ and an overlay ~~(1)~~, wherein the overlay ~~(1) consists of~~ comprises about ~~approx.~~ 0 - 20 wt.% copper and/or silver, the rest being bismuth, and the layer thickness of the nickel layer amounts to more than 4 μm .

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the overlay ~~(1)~~ comprises at least ~~approx.~~ 0.5 wt.% copper and/or silver.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the overlay comprises about ~~(1) consists of~~ ~~approx.~~ 2 - 8 wt.% copper and/or silver, the rest being bismuth.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 [[to 3]], wherein the layer thickness of the overlay is about ~~(1) amounts to approx.~~ 5 - 25 μm .

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the layer thickness of the overlay is about ~~(1) amounts to approx.~~ 6 - 14 μm .

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the layer thickness of the nickel layer is about ~~(2) amounts to approx.~~ 4 - 6 μm .

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7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the bearing metal layer comprises ~~(3)~~ ~~consists of a~~ copper-aluminum, copper-tin, copper-tin-lead, copper-zinc, copper-zinc-silicon, copper-zinc-aluminum, aluminum-zinc or copper-aluminum-iron alloy.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, which has undergone an aging process and comprises an interdiffusion layer of substantially bismuth and nickel between the nickel intermediate layer and the overlay.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for the production of the composite multilayer materials as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ by electrodeposition, in which the overlay is deposited from an aqueous-based electrolyte system comprising of the following composition:

<u>20-100 g/l</u> bismuth methanesulfonate,	20-100 g/l
<u>0.1- 30 g/l and/or</u> copper methanesulfonate,	0.1-30 g/l and/or
<u>0.1 - 2 g/l</u> silver methanesulfonate,	0.1-2 g/l
<u>80 - 250 g/l</u> methanesulfonic acid,	80-250 g/l
<u>20 - 100 g/l</u> nonionic wetting agent,	20-100 g/l
<u>5 - 40 g/l</u> grain refining agent,	5-40 g/l
<u>1 - 4 g/l</u> resorcinol, <u>and</u>	1-4 g/l
if silver methanesulfonate is added, then also	

<u>30 - 150 g/l</u> thiourea,	30-150 g/l.
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10. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the grain refining agent is based on an acrylic acid derivative and alkylaryl polyglycol ether.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~, wherein the nonionic wetting agent is based on aryl polyglycol ether and/or alkylaryl polyglycol ether.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of pProduction of plain bearings or bushings having the following steps:

applying ~~application of~~ a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy onto a backing layer as bearing metal layer;

subdividing ~~subdivision~~ and shaping ~~of~~ the composite multilayer material;

applying ~~application of~~ a nickel intermediate layer onto the bearing metal layer;

and

electrodeposit[[ion of]]ing an overlay onto the nickel intermediate layer ~~in accordance with the method as claimed in claims 9 to 11;~~

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of ~~Production as claimed in~~ claim 12 further including heat treating, ~~wherein~~ the plain bearings or bushings ~~are heat-treated~~ for two or more hours ~~to a few days~~.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of ~~Production as claimed in~~ claim 13 further including maintaining, ~~wherein~~ the temperature during heat treatment between ~~amounts to~~ 150 - 170°C.

Claims 15 and 16 (CANCELLED)